Claims

[c1]   1.A computer implemented method for procuring and managing professional services by an organization via a computer network, said method comprising:

(a)providing a computer controlled by the organization which may communicate with a service provider computer over a computer network;

i.prompting a service provider to complete a service order comprising at least the following information to the organization:a file identifier;

ii.a description of the services to be provided; and

iii.estimated cost;

(b)receiving the service order for approval or disapproval; and

(c)notifying the service provider of the approval or disapproval.

[c2]   2.The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

(a)storing the service order in a memory accessible to the organization;

(b)upon completion of the professional services, prompting the service provider to enter a completion order comprising at least the following information:

i.the file identifier; and

ii.actual cost;

(c)receiving the completion order and adding it to the service order; and

(d)providing means to compare the estimated cost of the service order to the actual cost of the completion order.

[c3]   3.The method of claim 1 wherein the service order further comprises an individual contact within the organization.

[c4]   4.The method of claim 3 wherein the individual is prompted to review the service order by email notification.

[c5]   5.The method of claim 1 wherein the service order further comprises one, some or all of the following information:

(a)activity code matched to a category of type of service;

(b)identity of individual service provider;

(c)desired result;

(d)estimated completion date; and

(e)estimated time to complete.

[c6]   6.The method of claim 5 further comprising the steps of:

(a)storing the service order in a memory accessible to the organization;

(b)upon completion of the professional services, prompting the service provider to enter a completion order comprising at least the following information:

i.the file identifier;

ii.the actual cost;

iii.actual result obtained;

iv.actual completion date; and

v.actual time to complete;

(c)receiving the completion order and adding it to the service order; and

(d)providing means to compare the information in the service order to the corresponding information in the completion order.